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Message Text

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20
ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DOTE-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

OFA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 IO-10 NSF-01 OES-03

ACDA-05 INT-05 CIEP-01 CEA-01 /104 W
---------- 049978
R 252053Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6824
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL HALIFAX

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 2396

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, CA, USUN, EFIS, ICNAF
SUBJECT: CANADIAN SETBACK AT ICNAF BRINGS INCREASED
PRESSURE FOR UNILATERAL ACTION

REF: OTTAWA 2328

1. THE CANADIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO ALLEGED CANADIAN SETBACK AT ICNAF; THE CANADIAN DELEGATION PROPOSED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES IN ICNAF CUT THEIR FISHING EFFORTS OFF CANADA'S SHORES BY 40 PERCENT OF 1973 LEVELS DURING NEXT YEAR'S SEASON. THIS PROPOSAL WAS NOT ACCEPTED, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

2. AS A RESULT, PRESSURES HAVE BEEN INCREASED UPON THE GOC TO TAKE UNILATEAL ACTION TO PROTECT CANADIAN FISHERIES OFF CANADIAN SHORES. IN HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD OPPOSITION CONSERVATIVE MP DONALD W. MUNRO ASKED THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FISHERIES THE FOLLOWING: "DOES HE
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(THE MINISTER) INTEND TO CLAIM UNILATERALLY FOR

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CANDA A JURISDICTION OF UP TO A 200-MILE LIMIT ALONG
OUR THREE COAST LINES OR OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF,
WHICH EVER IS GREATER?" THE MINISTER REPLIED: "..THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IS ABSENT FROM
CANADA JUST NOW. IT WOULD BE TOTALLY IRRESPONSIBLE
ON MY PART TO RECOMMEND SUCH ACTION IN HIS ABSENCE.
ALSO, WE HAVE INDICATED THAT WE ARE LOOKING INTO ALL
POSSIBLE OPTIONS, INCLUDING THIS ONE."

2. COMMENT: THE CANADIAN POSITION AT ICNAF HAS BEEN
CRITICIZED SINCE AS ONE OPPOSITION MEMBER SAID, "THE
GOVERNMENT HAS PROVED ITSELF INCAPABLE OF ADEQUATELY
POLICING THE ICNAF QUOTAS. HOW DO THEY INTEND TO
POLICE AN AGREED REDUCTION IN THE FISHING EFFORT?"
THE APPARENT FAILURE OF THE INITIATIVE INCREASES
PRESSURES ON CANADA FOR UNILATERAL ACTION AND A MINISTER
OF GOVERNMENT HAS CONFIRMED AGAIN THAT UNILATERAL ACTION
IS AT LEAST ONE OPTION THAT IS BEING CONSIDERED.
HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF DELICATE LOS NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS
UNLIKELY THAT THE GOC WOULD SEE SUCH ACTION AS BEING
WARRANTED AT THIS TIME, AND CANADA PROBABLY WILL CON-
TINUE TO STUDY VERY CAREFULLY MOVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES
BEFORE EMBARKING ON A UNILATERAL COURSE.
PORTER

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